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In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

10. (Withdrawn)

11. (Withdrawn)

12. (Withdrawn)

13. (Withdrawn)

14. (Withdrawn)

15. (Withdrawn)

16. (Withdrawn)

17. (Withdrawn)

18. (Withdrawn)

19. (Withdrawn)

20. (Withdrawn)

21. (Withdrawn)

22. (Currently Amended) A method for effecting separation of liquid from
solids or solids from liquid comprising the steps of:

supporting at least one porous belt held by and between a pair of spaced
rollers each axially oriented in substantially the same direction provided with drive means
for progressing the at least one porous belt from a collection zone through a compression
zone, said at least one porous belt having a first face facing each roller of said pair of

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spaced rollers and a second face facing away from the roller of each said pair of spaced rollers, said at least one porous belt having a second face facing away from each said pair of spaced rollers;

moving [positioning] the at least one porous belt between the compression zone and the collection zone for [and] causing the shape of the at least one porous belt to be changed in shape from an upstream position to a downstream position, to provide thereby a supporting shape between said collection zone and said compression zone to hold liquid, and causing said at least one porous belt having said first face to form outside face of said at least one porous belt and said second face forming an inside face forming inner facing surfaces facing each other, one part of which shape is defined at a downstream location by a coming together of the second face of said at least one porous belt forming the inner facing surfaces of said at least one belt and free of direct contact with said pair of spaced rollers; and

applying a deliquifying pressure at the compression zone progressively comprising solids from a loaded slurry to cause the solids to be deliquified.

23. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 22, including:

supporting the at least one porous belt to cause said at least one porous belt to change its shape as it progresses through the collection zone from an approximately planar shape to one where the belt is folded to have the second face forming the previously upper surface on one side of the second face of the belt being pushed together with the previously upper surface of the second face on an opposite side of the at least one porous belt and to unfold the at least one porous belt after it leaves the

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compression zone so that said first face faces towards said second roller of said pair of spaced rollers.

24. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 22, including the steps of:

supporting the at least one porous belt to cause a change in shape as it progresses through the collection zone from an approximately planar shape;

supporting the at least one porous belt [or belts so as to provide] for providing a substantially horizontal alignment of its uppermost surface forming said second surface when viewed in a lateral direction to one where the belt is folded to have the previously upper or second surface on one side of the belt being pushed together with the previously upper or second surface on and opposite side of the belt so that the respective upper surfaces of the sides are as the at least one porous belt is aligned to be approximately vertical as the at least one porous belt is conveyed from the collection zone to the compression zone to form a nipping alignment or location and where the uppermost sides of the at least one belt at the nipping location is at a height that is substantially the same or lower than the upper surface at commencement location of the collection zone.

25. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 22, including:

moving [supporting] the at least one porous belt to cause its shape to change as it progresses through the collection zone from an approximately planar shape which is supported so as to provide a substantially horizontally alignment of its uppermost surface when viewed in a lateral direction to one where the belt is folded to

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have the previously upper or second surface on one side of the belt being pushed together with the previously upper or second surface on an opposite side of the belt so that the respective upper surfaces of the sides are aligned to be approximately vertical at [the] a nipping location and are at a height that is a similar or lower height than the upper surface at commencement location of the collection zone.

26. (Currently Amended) A method for effecting separation of liquids from solids or solids from liquids comprising the steps of:

providing at least one endless porous belt movable from a collection zone to a compression zone and from the compression zone to a cleaning zone;

passing the at least one porous belt from a first station to support the at least one porous belt in a substantially horizontal position to a second station for folding the at least one porous belt and causing the at least one porous belt to move into a substantially vertical position and reconverting the at least one porous belt from its vertical position into a horizontal position at a third station position, the vertical position being substantially orthogonal to the horizontal position where the upper surface of the belt in the horizontal position is folded upon itself with said upper surface forming face to face inner surfaces of the belt to change the belt from a receiving zone to a compression zone as the belt is moved to its vertical position; [and]

passing the belt from the second station to the third station to support the belt at the third station in a substantially horizontal position;

passing the said at least one endless porous belt at the third station in a substantially horizontal position; and

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applying a pressure deliquifying at the compression zone formed at the second station by means of which solids from a loaded slurry are progressively compressed to cause the solids to be deliquified;

27. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 26, including:

[applying a pressure deliquifying at a compression zone formed at the second station by means of which solids from a loaded slurry are progressively compressed to cause the solids to be deliquified;]

forming a collection or supporting shape [to hold] for holding the liquid slurry between the first and second stations such that the [belt] upper surface of said belt will progress substantially downwardly into the compression zone and for forming [to form] a substantially flat face to face surface at the second station [to form] for forming a nipping location.

28. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 26, including:

supporting the at least one porous belt with supporting guides [when progressing] as said at least one porous belt progresses from an unfolded position at the first station to a folded position at the second station when said at least one porous belt is loaded with product and progressing to an unfolded position at the third station; and

adjusting the tension of the at least one porous belt at said second station [to assist] for assisting in the tracking of the belt.